

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION  
Early Intervention Committee Meeting

LOCATION  
Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference

Meeting Date  
June 17, 2009  
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Sarah Souders, Chair  
Meghan Johnson  
Debbie Kitelinger  
Amy Simpson  
Eric Gebhart  
Sharon Schumacher  
Susan Steele  
Linda Borghols

Community Members/Guests:

Geri Benshoof

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:  
Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**Welcome from the Chair**

**Approval of the Past Minutes**

Amy Simpson made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Sharon Schumacher **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED**.

**Correspondence**

Teresa Holt stated that Arne Duncan, the secretary of education, is coming to visit Alaska in July. She asked that the committee brainstorm some discussion topics for that meeting. Geri Benshoof suggested discussing the success they've had with the waitlist and Sharon Schumacher suggested talking about the pilot pre-schools that are opening up in the fall. Teresa Holt suggested talking to him about the new infant learning data systems and the issue of rural Alaska and the ongoing workforce issue. Meghan Johnson suggested using the talking points they used for Alaska Kid's Can't Wait and maybe some of the CAPTA things as they relate to workforce and constraints.

Teresa Holt stated that the second piece of correspondence was an issue that they discussed about opening up ILP to age 5. Meghan Johnson clarified by noting that it was investigating creating a seamless system for that transition piece after age 3.

Sharon Schumacher stated that this is a discussion that should be happening between herself, Erin Kinavey and Art Arnold and didn't believe it was an issue that the EIC should be focusing their efforts on right now. Linda Borghols, who had an e-mail from Erin Kinavey to Teresa Holt, noted that Erin was asking the EIC to discuss their feelings regarding the 0 to 5 option in the future and that they're not interested in pursuing it at this time. Debbie Kitelinger agreed that those were Erin's sentiments, but that Erin just wanted to get a conversation going to look at and consider the possible options.

Amy Simpson stated that she agrees with Meghan in that they should be

looking at melding certain parts of the system to make it more seamless for families in terms of determining eligibility and creating IFSPs that can just easily transition into IEP goals.

Teresa Holt wrapped up the discussion by stating that they will put this on hold until they hear back from Erin, Sharon and Art.

### **Approval of Letter with Indicator Recommendations**

Teresa Holt stated that unfortunately, she wasn't able to get this done. She asked the committee members for specific comments and then she will create the letter and send it out to Erin Kinavey and Sharon Schumacher in August.

### **Budget Recommendations for the Trust (GF Funds Only)**

Teresa Holt asked the committee for suggestions on projects to recommend to the Trust that are capital projects or something that would be funded through general funds through the legislature.

After a group discussion, Teresa Holt recapped the ideas presented:

1. 619 coordinator
2. Student loan forgiveness
3. Workforce development
4. Medicaid billing
5. Other support of bills that are already pending
6. Early childhood mental health projects
7. ABCD Project

### **Face-to-Face Meeting**

There was a group discussion regarding dates and locations that would work for the committee's face-to-face meeting. It was agreed that it was important for Sharon Schumacher to be present at that meeting. To coincide with Sharon's schedule, it was determined that the face-to-face meeting will take place in Anchorage on August 24 – 26.

### **Report from OCS/ILP**

Linda Borghols stated that they are going to be audited and will be very busy for the rest of the summer through the first part of October. In addition to planning for the audit, they've been trying to get the FY'10 continuation awards out to their grantees. Amy Simpson added that when ILP submitted their budget, it was before the increase went through. So the awards will be very different and ILP programs will have to recreate a budget.

### **Report from AILPA**

Amy Simpson stated that she is now the chair of AILPA and they didn't meet this month so she doesn't have anything more to report on.

### **Report from DEED**

Sharon Schumacher stated that the State of Alaska met requirements on Part B for the third year in a row. She also stated that they're having a review by OSEP which will keep them very busy. Sharon also stated that the C to B transition e-module was just reviewed last week and should be ready to go by the fall.

She continued on to note that the writing of the content of the early childhood outcomes training module is going to be started next month. They hope to have that ready for review sometime this fall.

Sharon stated that Susan Steele started with them yesterday and Chris Wilkins will be starting next month, which will mean that they will be fully staffed.

Sharon concluded her report by stating that on behalf of the Department of Education, they wanted to thank Sarah Souders for her tenure as the EIC chair and welcomed Debbie Kitelinger as the new chair of the committee.

### **Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings**

Teresa Holt listed important future conferences and meetings as follows:

- ☒ Autism Summer Institute, August 3 – 7
- ☒ OSEP Leadership Conference, August 17 – 19
- ☒ Alaska Special Education Directors' Conference, July 23 – 25
- ☒ TASH, November 18 – 21
- ☒ National Early Childhood Conference

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the EIC will be the face-to-face meeting in Anchorage, August 24 – 26.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.